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US-PAT-NO: 4621325
• DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 4621325 A

TITLE: Method for monitoring receipt and stocking of goods in a direct store delivery

• DATE-ISSUED: November 4, 1986

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 705/30; 235/385

CLAIMS:

We claim:

1. A method for tracing discrepancies of goods occurring during delivery of discrete identifiable units, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing and storing in a memory on a batch by batch basis a vendor's count of the units in each batch of delivered goods;

(b) preparing and storing in said memory on a batch by batch basis a clerk's count of the units in each batch of goods acknowledged as received by the clerk;

(c) comparing said vendor's count and said clerk's count of the units in each batch of goods and producing a store invoice for each batch;

(d) preparing and storing in said memory a management count of units in selected batches of goods prior to stocking said goods in inventory; and

(e) comparing said store invoice to said management count of units in at least one of said selected batches whereby trends in discrepancies between said vendor's, clerk's and management counts for corresponding batches indicate unlawful or inaccurate handling of said goods.

2. The method recited in claim 1 wherein the step of preparing and storing a vendor's count comprises the steps of:

providing a worksheet having bar code information for use by said vendor to record the count of units in each batch; and

reading said vendor's worksheet with a wand bar code reader and transferring the information read to said memory.

3. The method recited in claim 1 wherein steps (a) and (b) are repeated until said counts of units in each batch are the same.

4. The method recited in claim 1 including the step of printing a store invoice based on said clerk's count and said vendor's count of the units in each said batch.

5. A method for monitoring delivery of goods by a vendor to detect discrepancies and pilferage of goods, comprising the steps of:

(a) scanning precoded bars on a system control sheet to identify the vendor;

(b) storing the scanned vendor identification in a computer;

(c) printing a worksheet having bar code information for use by said vendor;

(d) scanning said worksheet bar code information to record a vendor's count of units in each batch of delivered goods;

(e) storing the scanned worksheet bar code information and vendor's count in said computer;

(f) printing a store invoice for said delivered goods using said stored worksheet bar code information and vendor's count;

(g) scanning a store check-in sheet having bar code information to record a clerk's audit including a count of units in each batch of delivered goods;

(h) storing said clerk's audit information in said computer; and

(i) comparing said vendor's count and said clerk's audit information to detect any discrepancies in the counts for said goods.

6. The method recited in claim 5 including the steps of:

(a) conducting a management audit to provide a management count of units in selected batches of delivered goods; and

(b) storing said management audit information in said computer.

7. The method recited in claim 6 wherein the step of comparing said vendor's count and said clerk's audit information to detect any discrepancies includes comparing said management audit information.

8. The method according to claim 6 including the step of generating a new store invoice when discrepancies are found between said management audit and said clerk's audit.

9. The method according to claim 6 including the steps of:

conducting a security audit of selected batches of said goods; and

generating a new store invoice when discrepancies are found between said security audit and said clerk's audit.

10. The method recited in claim 5 including the step of holding said goods pending receipt of a release by said clerk after storing and comparing said clerk's audit information.